state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a Committee to prepare a model training syllabus on human rights for police personnel; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the Committee and the terms of reference thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Crinrinahaaaon of Politics

7144. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRIP.UPENDRA:
SHRI G.G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

'(a) whether the Government have taken note of increasing criminalisation of politics; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The subject of criminalisation of politics has, indeed, attracted media attention and caused debate in various fora in the recent past. In a limited way, various statutes do attempt, for example to deal with convicted persons being disqualified from contesting elections. However, it is felt that criminalisation of politics, in a broad sense, can only be checked by political parties themselves and through enlightened public opinion.

Opting of premature retirement from B.S.F.

7145. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to recent study undertaken, on an average 8 soldiers opt for premature retirement from Border Security Force (B.S.F.) and that 60% of the diseases affecting the B.S.F. personnel arise from acute mental stress, as per the report which appeared in The Pioneer dated the 20th April, 1995;

(b) what are other findings of the study; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action to reverse this trend, if so, the details thereof and the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJBSH PILOT): (a) to (c) The Government has seen the Press reports. 11,517 personnel of BSF had opted for voluntary ~~retir~~ement during the period 1991-94 primarily on personal grounds on completion of more than 20 years of qualifying service.

BSF had organised some studies on effects of stress on BSF personnel. As per their findings, there are indications that force personnel are affected by stress related diseases 'like hypertention etc. Action for ensuring better health and physical standards of BSF personnel is taken on a continuous basis within the given constraints, and medical facilities, rotation of personel etc. are provided for this purpose.

Escape of Bombay blast accused

7146. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons involved in the Bombay blasts and charge-sheeted;

(b) the number of those arrested and of those surrendered;

(c) the number of those who escaped to foreign countries and the number of those who have been extradited;

(d) the further action being taken in this regard; and

(e) the number of persons who have been released for lack of substantial proof about their involvement in bomb blasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) 198.

(b) 160; None has surrendered.

(c) 38; None has been extradited.

(d) Efforts are being made through Interpol and local sources to know the exact whereabouts of the accused persons who are absconding. Government has also taken up the extradition of accused persons with the governments of Pakistan and U AE The Government of Pakistan has conveyed that these persons are not in Pakistan. (0 26.